

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-15 and 17-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 12 and 17 are amended and claims 5 and 16 are cancelled. In particular, the features of claims 5 and 16 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 12, respectively. Applicant notes that claim 16 recites features similar to claim 5.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 4.

The Office Action indicates that Fig. 2 was elected on January 26, 2005, notwithstanding Applicant's election on May 27, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 6-8, 12, 15 and 17-19 read on the elected Species. Claims 1 and 12 remain generic to non-elected claims 2, 3, 9-11, 13, 14 and 20-22. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of the withdrawn claims upon allowance of the generic independent claims.

Claims 5, 10-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With claim 5 (now incorporated into claim 1), the cut sheet of claim 5 refers to the "a cut sheet" in amended claim 1, line 4, and not the "a subsequent cut sheet" in amended claim 1, line 9.

With claims 10 and 11, these claims are withdrawn claims and are clearly supported by Applicant's other embodiments.

With claims 12 and 15 (and withdrawn claim 13), Applicant has provided the essential structural cooperative relationship between the first roller, the trailing edge detector, the second roller and the control unit of claim 12. As would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art, the control unit controls the timing of the first roller, the trailing edge detector and the second roller. Applicant's specification (steps S304 to S308 of Fig. 5) also provides a clear example as to how (1) the control unit controls the second roller such that the second roller starts conveying the cut sheet when the first roller stops feeding the cut sheet and (2) how the control unit controls the trailing edge detector such that the trailing edge

detector starts detecting the trailing edge of the cut sheet when the first roller stops feeding the cut sheet. Claim 12 is thus clear and definite.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The rejections of claims 1 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Yen et al. (Yen), U.S. Patent No. 6,485,011, claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Iwanade, U.S. Patent No. 5,194,970, claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sugiura, U.S. Patent No. 5,228,680, in view of Iwanade, and claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Greco, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,022,640, in view of Iwanade, have been rendered moot by incorporating the features of claims 5 and 16 into claims 1 and 12, respectively.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 17, 2006

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